

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY Eastern Germany REPORT

TOPIC General Information from the Rathenow-Magdeburg Area

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 9 October 1952

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

25X1

SOURCE

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

1. [redacted] t the engineer unit at the bridge near Albertsheim north of Rathenow departed toward a southerly direction during the night of 21 September 1952. Troops were no longer stationed in the area north of Rathenow. (1)

[redacted] troops constructed a bridge across the Havel River which was subsequently crossed by a tank unit making a thrust toward a southwesterly direction and subsequently withdrew. In the morning of 24 September, intensive combat noises were heard from the direction of Vieritz-Milow. The troops made another assault toward southwest and west. The following day, the bridge near Milow had broken and two tanks had fallen into the Havel River. Heavy tank columns were seen near Vieritz. A tank unit, in about brigade strength, assembled in a wood southeast of Rathenow on 26 September. [redacted] all movements were made after dusk. The same day, many trucks [redacted]

[redacted] were seen moving along the Premnitz-Rathenow road. A column of many motor vehicles of the [redacted] moved through Rathenow. The Graeningen-Puetzlitz-Parzahn road was blocked. Individual trucks, tanks and armored scout cars stood in the area southwest of Nennhausen. Tank tracks led to the woods southeast of Rathenow. At 3 p.m., a train of 7 boxcars and an undetermined number of flatcars with 15 to 18 trucks with a 20-mm AA guns each and

7 scout cars [redacted] stood at the Nennhausen railroad station. No movements or vehicles were noticed outside the area described above. (2)

2. [redacted] troops made a river crossing over the Havel River by means of a temporary bridge, near Albertsheim, 5 km north of Rathenow between 15 and 21 September 1952. Jet and conventional aircraft participated. The units allegedly departed toward the Elbe River on 21 September 1952. (1)

3. At 10:15 a.m. on 25 September, 3 BA-64 armored scout cars [redacted] and 15 to 20 soldiers were seen in the woods about 2 km west of Nennhausen near Rathenow. On the same day, about 40 SSY-type cars were made available at the main railroad station and Nordbahnhof in Rathenow. However, no troop shipments were observed (2)

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

SECRET

- 2 -

4. At noon on 24 September, artillery firing was heard northeast of Wudecke (M 53/Z 05). Intensive artillery firing was heard northwest of Rathenow on 25 September and south of Rathenow on 26 September, each time from a distance of 5 km. (2)

5. Between 4:30 p.m. on 18 September to 4 a.m. on 19 September, large columns including 40 rocket launchers and light AT guns and trucks [redacted] moved through Perleberg. Other units were seen marching toward a southerly direction in the Wittanberg-Wolsnack area the same day. (3)

6. During the period from 18 to 20 September 1952, about 14 x 85-mm AA guns, 76-mm and 37-mm AA guns, light AT guns, trucks, searchlights and radar sets were made ready in the yard of the Flak Kaserne on Thomas-Mann Strasse in Magdeburg, which moved in column toward Heyrothsberge at 11:30 p.m. on 20 September. A Friedenweiler resident stated that artillery pieces and motor vehicles were loaded in Friedenweiler and Heyrothsberge during the night of 20 September. On 23 September, troops and billeting equipment from the Flak Kaserne were loaded at the Magdeburg-Friedrichstadt freight station. (4) During the night of 19 September, about 60 [redacted] trucks from the Hincenburg Kaserne at the corner of Herrenkrug Strasse and Jerichower Strasse were loaded at the Friedrichstadt freight station.

7. At 9 p.m. on 25 September, a shipment with 16 boxcars carrying billeting equipment, 10 T-34 tanks [redacted] and 6 trucks [redacted] arrived at the Brandenburg-Altstadt (N 53/Z 23) railroad station. The train was dispatched by [redacted] Neuhaldensleben (M 53/Y 51). The unit was unloaded and marched to the Pionier Kaserne on Einstein Strasse. (5)

Comments.

(1) Components of the Second Gds Mecz Army practiced in the Rathenow-Rhinow area between 16 and 19 September 1952. The exercises included river crossing practices near Albertsheim and intensive air force cover activity over this area.

(2) According to reports [redacted] a maneuver was held by units of the Fourth Gds Mecz Army supported by the IV Arty Corps in the Rathenow-Vieritz-Nennhausen area after 23 September. The motor vehicles observed in conjunction with the exercise are indicative of the 7th Gds Mecz Div, the 10th Gds Tank Div, the 6th Arty Div and the 25th RL Brig. It is believed that the units assembled and took up position in the area south of the Rathenow-Nennhausen railroad line from where they launched attacks across the Havel River near Milow in a southwesterly direction. The AAA shipment observed at the Nennhausen railroad station on 26 September belongs to the 63d AAA Div (US). The statements made in paragraph 4 are believed to chiefly refer to the above mentioned field exercise. However, the statements on the artillery firing northeast of Wudecke and northwest of Rathenow may also be in conjunction with field exercises of the Third Shock Army. [redacted]

(3) The movements of columns, mostly of units of the Third Shock Army from Schwerin were previously reported. [redacted]. It is believed that these units were to participate in field exercises to be held in the area of the northern sector of Letzling Heath, Rathenow and Havelberg after about 23 September 1952.

It is the impression that some of the Schwerin units assembled in the area east of the Elbe River, possibly to represent the enemy, while the majority of the elements of the Third Shock Army was to launch an attack across the Elbe River from west to east. The statement regarding the direction of attack is supported by other records according to which about 1,250 flatcars were to be made available in Rathenow by 27 and 28 September respectively. The date by which the cars have to be made available also tends to indicate that the exercise mentioned [redacted] were completed.

(4) Probably elements of the 3d Gds AAA Div which were to participate in the field exercise referred to in Field Comment (3). The loadings which, to some extent, were made east of the Elbe River, allow the conclusion that the troops concerned were consigned to those components of the Third Shock Army engaged east of the Elbe River.

(5) Presumably, advance details of the 63d Gds Tank Regt of the 10th Gds Tank Div that came from Letzling Heath. [redacted] Hq 10th Gds Tank Div from Krampnitz until 25 September 1952.

SECRET